

PUBLIC BUILDING AT JANESVILLE, WIS.

JANUARY 7, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MILLIKEN, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 3620.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 3620) for the construction of a Federal building in the city of Janesville, Wis., have had the same under consideration, and respectfully report as follows:

The city of Janesville is the county seat of Rock County, and has a population of 13,000. It is situated on Rock River, at the junction of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway and the Chicago and Northwestern Railway, and is the distributing center for Rock County, which, by the last State census, has a population of 48,414, and is one of the wealthiest counties in the State. The city is surrounded by an agricultural country of great fertility, and is the principal banking and business center of the great tobacco district of Wisconsin. It has about twenty large tobacco warehouses. Its manufacturing industries are many and important, including among others the establishments of the Janesville Cotton Mills, the Rock River Woolen Mills, the Rock River Cotton Company, the Janesville Carriage Works, the Janesville Machine Company, the B. F. Crossett City Mills, and the Hall Furniture Company. These establishments employ a very large number of operatives, and manufacture upon a large scale. The following is a partial list showing the value of the real estate and fixtures of such establishments, as compiled by the last Wisconsin census, and now on file in the office of the register of deeds of Rock County, namely:

Rocky River Woolen Mills	\$226, 000
Wisconsin Carriage Top Company	42, 000
Janesville Cotton Mills	273, 000
Hanson Furniture Company	40, 000
New Doty Manufacturing Company	105, 000
M. D. Taylor Machine Company	29, 500
Thoroughgood & Company	50, 000
Globe Works	15, 300
Janesville Carriage Works	75, 000
A. C. Kent	40, 000
The Burns Gear and Carriage Company	14, 300
Phoenix Planing Mill	19, 000
Edw. Murdock	18, 000
Janesville Cotton Mill	97, 000
F. M. Marzhiff & Co	165, 000
Louis F. Knipp Brewing Company	38, 600
Empire X Spring Company	17, 000
Richardson Norcross Company	130, 000
Janesville Machine Company	265, 000

G. Gray & Co.....	\$10,700
Janesville Clothing Company.....	50,000
Rock River Cotton Company.....	150,000
Janesville Hay Tool Company.....	35,000
C. Bailey, bats and twine.....	18,500
Ford Milling Company.....	140,000
B. F. Crossett, City Mills.....	100,000
Tuckwood Machine Company.....	10,000
William Ernst, cigars.....	8,000
Bladon & Company, box factory and bindery.....	12,000
John Soulman, cigars.....	9,000
C. A. Blanchard, cigars.....	10,500
Lewis Knitting Company.....	39,000
Buoh Brewing Company.....	22,500
Hall Furniture Company.....	50,000
The Dry Extract Company.....	25,000
Norcross & Doty Milling Company.....	8,000
Janesville Barb Wire Company.....	100,000

The city has a very superior system of water works, the plant of which cost nearly \$300,000. The public-school system is most excellent, requiring the use of seven large school buildings, including a \$60,000 high-school building, which is one of the best in the State. In addition to these there are two parochial schools and the Wisconsin State Institute for the Blind.

Three daily and five weekly newspapers are published in the city.

Among the many fine public buildings of Janesville, the county courthouse and the building of the Young Men's Christian Association may be mentioned.

Janesville has four banks, two national and two State, all of which are prominently numbered among the strong financial institutions of southern Wisconsin.

The gross receipts of the post-office for the fiscal year 1895 were \$22,160.07 and the total expenses (including free delivery, \$5,155.54) were \$12,757.07, leaving the net receipts \$9,403.

The salary of the postmaster, which is based upon the receipts of the office, is \$2,600, and indicates with certainty that the amount of business transacted at the post-office is, relatively speaking, exceptionally large, and further indicates the great commercial and manufacturing prosperity of the community.

The post-office of this flourishing and enterprising city is now located in a single room, for which an annual rental of \$1,000 is paid. There are no modern conveniences, such as fireproof vaults, water-closets, or private rooms of any kind. All the business of the office, including that of the registry department and the free-delivery system, employing 7 carriers, has to be conducted at great inconvenience in one room, and despite the free-delivery system the office is still largely patronized by the general public.

In view of the size of the city, its marked business character and advantages, the exceptionally large amount of business done at the post-office, the annual net receipts of which are approximately \$10,000, the want of modern conveniences and appliances in the present rented room used for the purposes of the office, and the urgent need of adequate facilities for the proper transaction of the public business, your committee are of the opinion that the city of Janesville should have a Federal building in keeping with its character as a commercial center, and they report back the said bill with the recommendation that it do pass, with the following amendment:

After the word "purchase," in the fourth line of said bill, insert the words "acquire by condemnation, or otherwise provide."